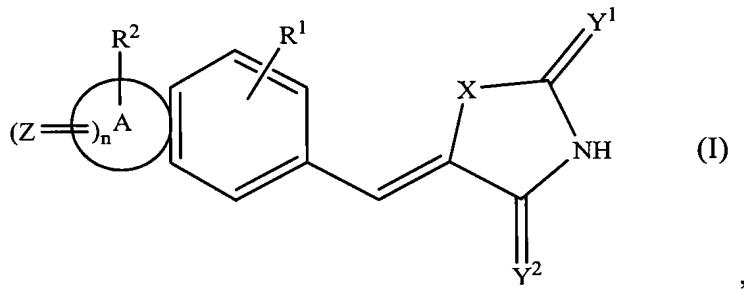


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of one or more diseases or disorders[[],] selected from the group consisting of autoimmune disorders, and/or inflammatory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, neurodegenerative diseases, bacterial or viral infections, kidney diseases, platelet aggregation, cancer, graft rejection, [[or]]and lung injuries, comprising, administering to a subject in need thereof, an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



as well as its geometrical isomers, its optically active forms as enantiomers, diastereomers and its racemate forms, as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts and pharmaceutically active derivatives thereof, wherein

A is a 5-8 membered heterocyclic or carbocyclic group, wherein said carbocyclic group may be fused with aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl;

X is S or O;

Y¹ and Y² are independently S or O;

Z is S or O;

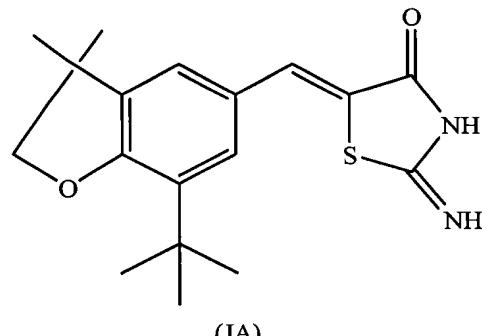
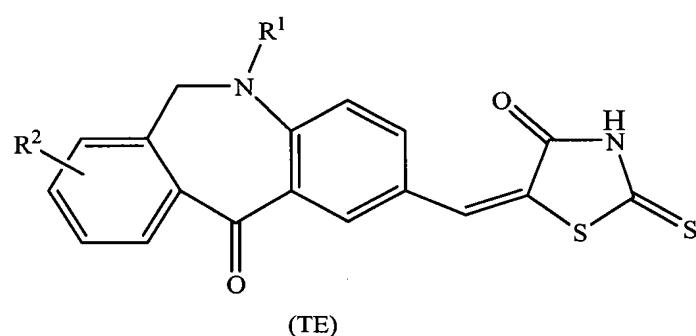
R¹ is H, CN, carboxy, acyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl carboxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aminocarbonyl, acylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl acylamino, ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl ureido, amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl amino, ammonium, sulfonyloxy,

C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyloxy, sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfinyl, sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, sulfonylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonylamino or carbamate;

R² is selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, acyl, amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl carboxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy carbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonylaminoaryl, aryl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aryl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl-aryl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl aryl, carboxy, cyano, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, nitro, acylamino, ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl carbamate, sulfonylamino, sulfanyl, or sulfonyl;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded:



wherein R¹ is a lower alkyl or aralkyl and R² is H or a halogen.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more diseases are selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, inflammatory bowel disease, lung inflammation, and thrombosis ~~or brain infection/inflammation such as, meningitis [[or]] and~~ encephalitis.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more diseases are selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, heart hypertrophy, cardiac myocyte dysfunction, elevated blood pressure and vasoconstriction.

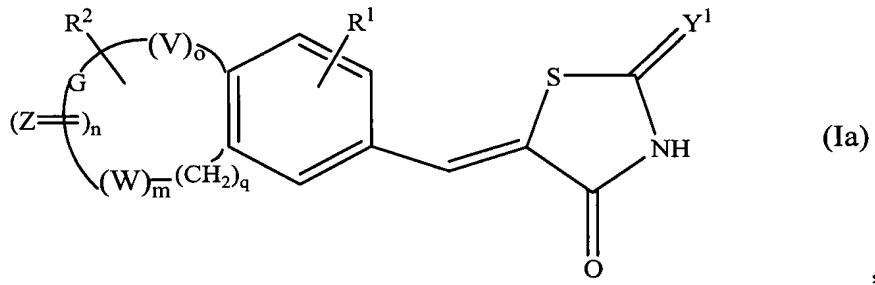
Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more diseases or disorders are selected from the group consisting of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, anaphylactic shock fibrosis, psoriasis, allergic diseases, asthma, ~~stroke or ischemic conditions, ischemia reperfusion, platelets aggregation/activation, skeletal muscle atrophy/hypertrophy, leukocyte recruitment in cancer tissue, pancreatitis, multiorgan~~ multiorgan failure, angiogenesis, invasion metastasis, melanoma, Karposi's sarcoma, acute viral infections, and chronic bacterial and viral infections, sepsis, transplantation graft rejection, glomerulo sclerosis, glomerulo nephritis, progressive renal fibrosis, endothelial injuries in the lung, [[and]] epithelial injuries in the lung and general lung airways inflammation.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein Y¹ and Y² are both oxygen.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein n is 1 or 2 and R¹ and R² are both H.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, wherein, in the compound of formula (I), X is S, Y¹ and Y² are both O, and n is 0.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 1, whereby the compound of formula (I) is a thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene of the formula (Ia)



wherein Y¹, R¹, R², Z and n are as above defined for the compound of formula (I);

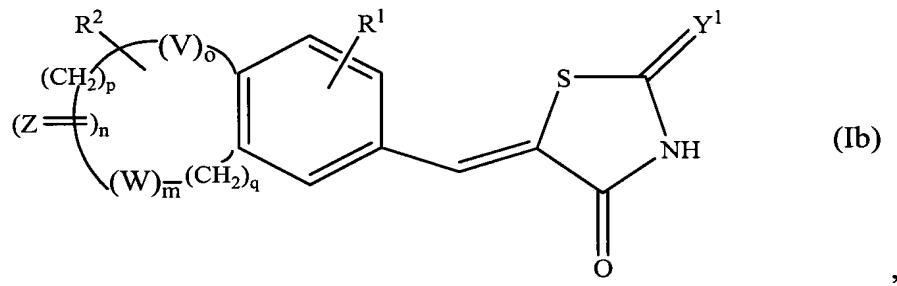
V and W are each, independently from each other, O, S or -NR³ wherein R³ is H or C₁-C₆ alkyl;

G is a C₁-C₅ alkylene or a C₁-C₅ alkenylene group;

o and m are each, independently from each other, 0 or 1; and

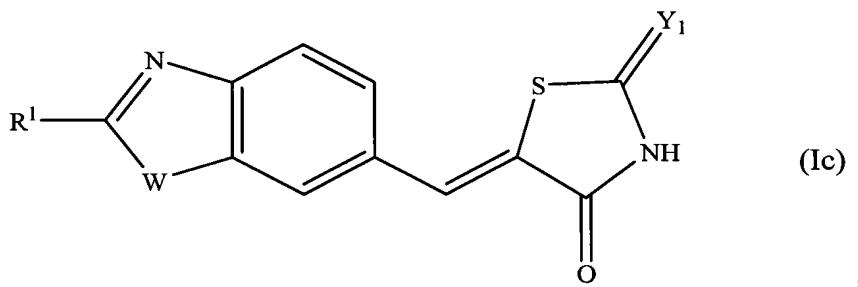
q is an integer from 0 to 4.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, whereby the thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene has the formula (Ib):



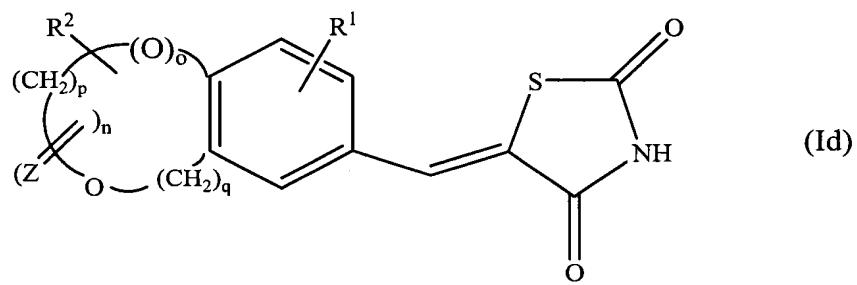
wherein Y^1 , R^1 , R^2 , V , Z , W , m , n , o , q are as above defined in the compound of formula (Ia), and p is an integer from 1 to 4.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, whereby the thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene has the formula (Ic):



wherein W , as well as R^1 and Y^1 , are as above defined in the compound of formula (Ia).

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, whereby the thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene has the formula (Id):



wherein R^1 , R^2 , Z and n are as above defined in formula (Ia); o is 0 or 1; p is an integer from 1 to 4 and q is an integer from 0 to 4.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein, in formula (Ia), Z is O, m is 0, n is 1, p is 1 or 2, q is 1, and R¹ and R² are each as above defined for the compound of formula (Ia).

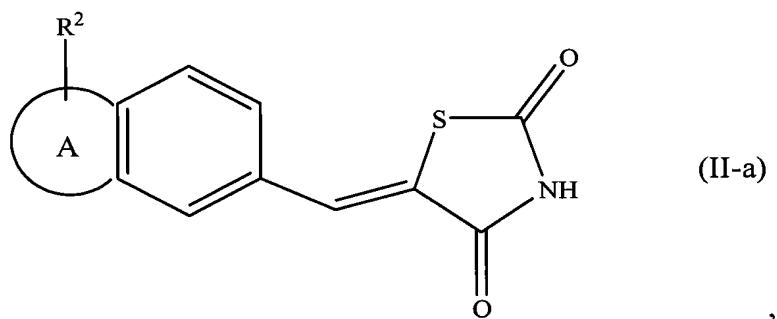
Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein, in formula (Ia), m is 1, n is 0, p is 1 or 2, q is 0, and R¹ and R² are each as above defined for the compound of formula (Ia).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein, in formula (Ia), m is 0, n is 1, p is 1 or 2, q is 0, and R¹ and R² are each as defined above for the compound of formula (I).

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein, in formula (Ia), R¹ is halogen or hydrogen.

Claims 17-18 (Cancelled)

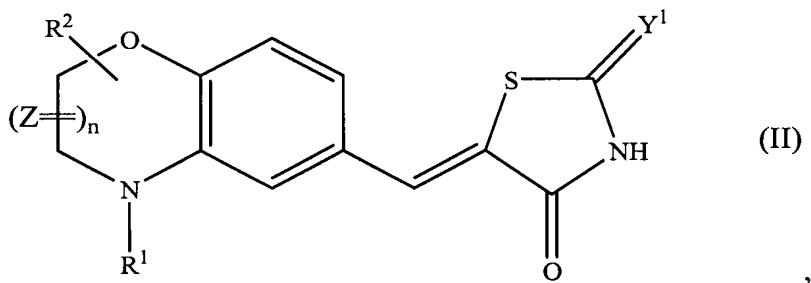
Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene according to formula (II-a):



wherein A is selected from the group consisting of dioxol, dioxin, dihydrofuran, (dihydro) furanyl, (dihydro)oxazinyl, pyridinyl, isooxazolyl, oxazolyl (dihydro)naphthalenyl, pyrimidinyl, triazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazinyl, thiazolidinyl, thiadiazolyl, and oxadiazolyl;

R² is selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, acyl, amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl carboxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy carbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl carbamate, C₁-C₆-alkyl amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonylaminoaryl, aryl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aryl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl-aryl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl aryl, carboxy, cyano, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, nitro, acylamino, ureido, sulfonylamino, sulfanyl, and sulfonyl.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene according to formula (II):



as well as its geometrical isomers, its optically active forms as enantiomers, diastereomers and its racemate forms, as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts and pharmaceutically active derivatives thereof, wherein

Y¹ is S or O;

Z is S or O;

R¹ is H, CN, carboxy, acyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl carboxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy, alkoxy carbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl

alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aminocarbonyl, acylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl acylamino, ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl ureido, amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl amino, ammonium, sulfonyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyloxy, sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfinyl, sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, sulfonylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonylamino or carbamate;

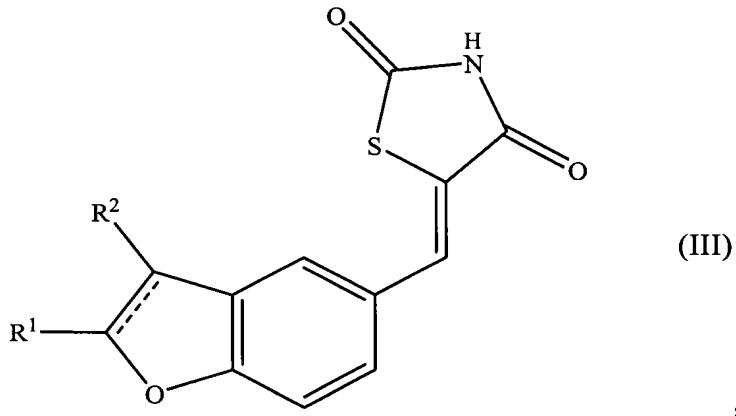
R² is selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, acyl, amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl carboxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonylaminoaryl, aryl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aryl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl-aryl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl aryl, carboxy, cyano, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, nitro, acylamino, ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl carbamate, sulfonylamino, sulfanyl, and sulfonyl;

n is 0 or 1.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene according to claim 20, wherein Y¹ is O.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene according to claim 20, wherein R¹ is selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aryl, aryl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aryl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl-aryl and C₂-C₆-alkynyl aryl.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene according to formula (III):

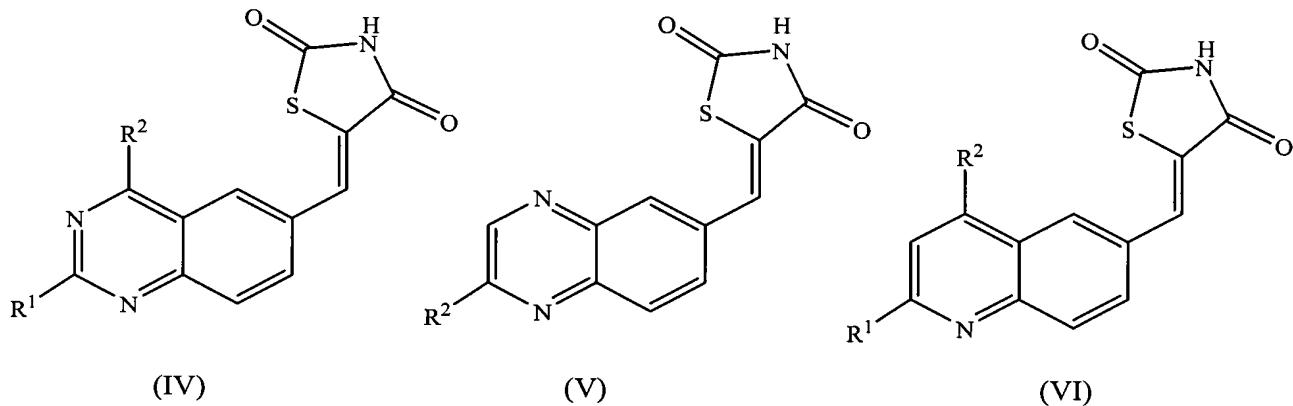


as well as its geometrical isomers, its optically active forms as enantiomers, diastereomers and its racemate forms, as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts and pharmaceutically active derivatives thereof, and wherein

R¹ is H, CN, carboxy, acyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl carboxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aminocarbonyl, acylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl acylamino, ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl ureido, amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl amino, ammonium, sulfonyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyloxy, sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyl, sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, sulfonylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonylamino or carbamate;

R² is selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, acyl, amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl carboxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonylaminoaryl, aryl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aryl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl-aryl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl aryl, carboxy, cyano, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, nitro, acylamino, ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl carbamate, sulfonylamino, sulfanyl, and sulfonyl.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): A thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene according any of formulae (IV), (V) and (VI):



wherein R¹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, cyano, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, acyl, and alkoxy carbonyl, and

R² is selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, acyl, amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl carboxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl alcoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonylaminoaryl, aryl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aryl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl-aryl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl aryl, carboxy, cyano, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, nitro, acylamino, ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl carbamate, sulfonylamino, sulfanyl, and sulfonyl.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene according to claim 19, selected from the group consisting of:

5-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethylene)-2-thioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-4-one,
5-(2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-6-ylmethylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(2,3-dihydro-1 -benzofuran-5-ylmethylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[(7-methoxy-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[(9,10-dioxo-9,10-dihydroanthracen-2-yl)methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
(5-[(2,2-difluoro-1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
(5Z)-5-(1,3-dihydro-2-benzofuran-5-ylmethylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-(1-benzofuran-5-ylmethylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[(4-methyl-3-oxo-3,4-dihydro-2H-1,4-benzoxazin-6-yl)methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-
2,4-dione,
5-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-ylmethylene)-2-imino-1,3-thiazolidin-4-one,
5-Quinolin-6-ylmethlene-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-Quinolin-6-ylmethlene-2-thioxo-thiazolidin-4-one,
2-Imino-5-quinolin-6-ylmethlene-thiazolidin-4-one,
5-(3-Methyl-benzo[d]isoxazol-5-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-(4-Phenyl-quinazolin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-(4-Dimethylamino-quinazolin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[(4-aminoquinazolin-6-yl)methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[(4-piperidin-1-ylquinazolin-6-yl)methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[(4-morpholin-4-ylquinazolin-6-yl)methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-{[4-(benzylamino)quinazolin-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-{[4-(diethylamino)quinazolin-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-{[4-[(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)amino]quinazolin-6-yl}methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-
dione,
5-{[4-[(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)amino]quinazolin-6-yl}methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-
dione,

ethyl 1-{6-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]quinazolin-4-yl}piperidine-3-carboxylate,

ethyl 1-{6-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]quinazolin-4-yl)piperidine-4-carboxylate,

tert-butyl-1-{6-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]quinazolin-4-yl)-L-proline,

5-{[4-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)quinazolin-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-{[4-(4-pyrimidin-2-yl)piperazin-1-yl)quinazolin-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-{[4-[4-(4-fluorophenyl)piperidin-1-yl]quinazolin-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-{[4-(4-benzylpiperidin-1-yl)quinazolin-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-{[4-[4-(2-phenylethyl)piperidin-1-yl]quinazolin-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-{[4-(4-methylpiperidin-1-yl)quinazolin-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-{[4-(4-hydroxypiperidin-1-yl)quinazolin-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

1-[6-(2,4-Dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-quinazolin-4-yl]-piperidine-4-carboxylic acid,

1-[6-(2,4-Dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-quinazolin-4-yl]-piperidine-3-carboxylic acid,

1-[6-(2,4-Dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-quinazolin-4-yl]-pyrrolidine-2-carboxylic acid,

5-(4-Methylamino-quinazolin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(4-Methoxy-quinazolin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione
2-Imino-5-(4-methylamino-quinazolin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidin-4-one,
2-Imino-5-(4-piperidine-quinazolin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidin-4-one,
2-Imino-5-(4-dimethylamino-quinazolin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidin-4-one,
5-(2-Methyl-2H-benzotriazol-5-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-(3-Methyl-3H-benzotriazol-5-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-(3-Ethyl-3H-benzoimidazol-5-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-{{[1-(4-phenylbutyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]methylene}}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[(1-prop-2-yn-1-yl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-[(1-{2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl] ethyl} -1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-({1-[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
methyl 4-{{6-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]}-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl}cyclohexanecarboxylate,
5-({1-[2-(5-methoxy-1H-indol-3-yl)ethyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-({1-[(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-4-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-({1-[2-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-({1-[2-(4-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl}methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,
5-({1-[4-(trifluoromethyl)benzyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl }methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

4-{[2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl}cyclohexanecarboxylic acid,

5-[(1-isobutyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(1-[2-(1,3-benzodioxol-4-yl)ethyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(1-[2-(2-phenoxyphenyl)ethyl]-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-1[1-(3,3-diphenylpropyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5- {[1-(2-methoxybenzyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5- {[1-(3-furylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl]methylene}-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-[(1-propyl-1H-benzimidazol-6-yl)methylene]-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-Quinoxalin-6-ylmethylene-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-Quinoxalin-6-ylmethylene-2-thioxo-thiazolidin-4-one,

2-Imino-5-quinoxalin-6-ylmethylene-thiazolidin-4-one,

5-Benzothiazol-6-ylmethylene-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(3-Methyl-benzofuran-5-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(2-Bromo-3-methyl-benzofuran-5-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(3-bromo-benzofuran-5-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

3-[5-(2,4-Dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-benzofuran-3-yl]-acrylic acid ethyl ester,

3-[5-(2,4-Dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-benzofuran-3-y]]-acrylic acid,

5-[3-(3-Oxo-3-piperidin-1-yl-propenyl)-benzofuran-5-ylmethylene]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

Methyl 1-((3-{5-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1-benzofuran-3-yl}prop-2-enoyl)proline,

Methyl 1-((3-{5-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1-benzofuran-3-yl}prop-2-enoyl)-D-proline,

(5-(3-[3-oxo-3-pyrrolidin-1-ylprop-1-en-1-yl]-1-benzofuran-5-yl)methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(3-[3-morpholin-4-yl-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl]-1-benzofuran-5-yl)methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

Methyl 1-(3-{5-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1-benzofuran-3-yl}prop-2-enoyl)-L-proline,

N-cyclohexyl-3-{5-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1-benzofuran-3-yl)-N-methylacrylamide,

3-{5-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1-benzofuran-3-yl}-N-ethyl-N-(2-hydroxyethyl)acrylamide,

N-cyclobutyl-3-{5-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1-benzofuran-3-yl}acrylamide,

5-(3-[3-azetidin-1-yl-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl]-1-benzofuran-5-yl)methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(3-[3-(1,3-dihydro-2H-isoindol-2-yl)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl]-1-benzofuran-5-yl)methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(3-[3-azepan-1-yl-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl]-1-benzofuran-5-yl)methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

3-{5-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1-benzofuran-3-yl}-N-piperidin-1-ylacrylamide,

3-{5-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1-benzofuran-3-yl}-N-(pyridin-3-ylmethyl)acrylamide,

N-cyclohexyl-3-{5-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1-benzofuran-3-yl}acrylamide,

5-(3-[3-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl]-1-benzofuran-5-yl)methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

N-cycloheptyl-3-{5-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1-benzofuran-3-yl}acrylamide,

5-(3-[3-(2,5-dihydro-1H-pyrrol-1-yl)-3-oxoprop-1-en-1-yl]-1-benzofuran-5-yl)methylene)-1,3-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

N-cyclopentyl-3-{5-[(2,4-dioxo-1,3-thiazolidin-5-ylidene)methyl]-1-benzofuran-3-yl}acrylamide,

3-[5-(2,4-Dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-benzofuran-3-yl]-propionic acid ethyl ester,

3-[5-(2,4-Dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-benzofuran-3-yl]-propionic acid,

5-[3-(3-Oxo-3-piperidin-1-yl-propyl)-benzofuran-5-ylmethylene]-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

6-(2,4-Dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]oxazine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester,

5-(3,4-Dihydro-2H-benzo[1,4]oxazin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(4-Benzoyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[1,4]oxazin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(4-Acetyl-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[1,4]oxazin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

6-(2,4-Dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-benzo[1,4]oxazine-4-carboxylic acid tert-butyl ester,

[6-(2,4-Dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]-oxazin-4-yl]-acetic acid methyl ester,

N-Benzyl-2-[6-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-3-oxo-2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]oxazin-4-yl]-acetamide,

5-(4-Butyl-3-oxo-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[1,4]oxazin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(4-Benzyl-3-oxo-3,4-dihydro-2H-benzo[1,4]oxazin-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(2-Chloro-benzofuran-5-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(3-Amino-benzo[d]isoxazol-5-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(3-Phenylethynyl-benzofuran-5-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-Benzo[1,2,5]thiadiazol-5-ylmethylene-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-Benzo[1,2,5]oxadiazol-5-ylmethylene-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(2-Methyl-benzofuran-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(2-Carboxymethyl-benzofuran-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

5-(3-Bromo-2-fluoro-2,3-dihydro-benzofuran-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione,

and

5-(2-Fluoro-benzofuran-6-ylmethylene)-thiazolidine-2,4-dione.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A method of preparing a medicament, comprising, contacting the thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene according to claim 19, with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable additives.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): A pharmaceutical composition, comprising at least one thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene according to claim 19, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient thereof.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A method for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of one or more diseases or disorders[[,]] selected from the group consisting autoimmune disorders, ~~and/or~~ inflammatory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, ~~neurodegenerative diseases,~~ bacterial ~~or~~ viral infections, ~~kidney~~ diseases, platelet aggregation, cancer, graft rejection, [[or]] and lung injuries, comprising, administering to a subject in need thereof, an effective amount of the thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene according to claim 19.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 28, wherein said one or more diseases are selected from the group consisting of multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, inflammatory bowel disease, lung inflammation, [[and]] thrombosis, ~~or brain infection/inflammation such as meningitis [[or]] and encephalitis.~~

Claim 30 (Cancelled).

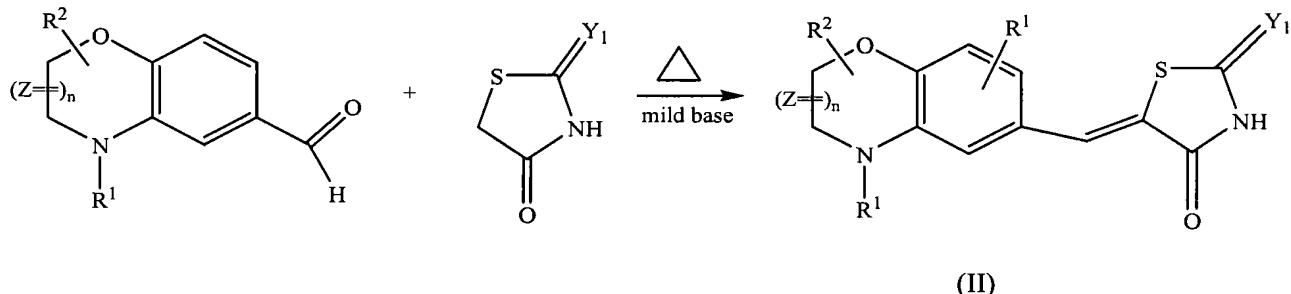
Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein said one or more diseases are selected from the group consisting of atherosclerosis, heart hypertrophy, cardiac myocyte dysfunction, elevated blood pressure and vasoconstriction.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 28, wherein said one or more diseases are selected from the group consisting of chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease, anaphylactic shock fibrosis, psoriasis, allergic diseases, asthma, ~~stroke or ischemic conditions, ischemia reperfusion~~, platelets aggregation/activation, skeletal muscle atrophy/hypertrophy, leukocyte recruitment in cancer tissue, angiogenesis, invasion metastasis, melanoma, Karposi's sarcoma, acute viral infections, and chronic bacterial and viral infections, sepsis, transplantation, graft rejection, pancreatitis, multiorgan multorgane failure, ~~glomerulo sclerosis, glomerulo nephritis, progressive renal fibrosis, endothelial injuries in the lung, [[and]] epithelial injuries in the lung and general lung airways inflammation.~~

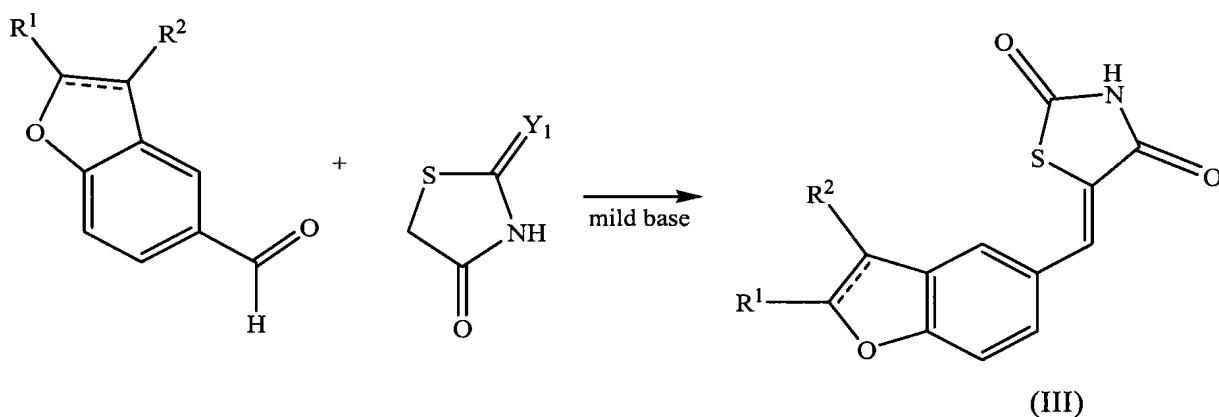
Claims 33-34 (Cancelled)

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): A method of preparing a thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene of formula (II), according to claim 20, comprising the following step:



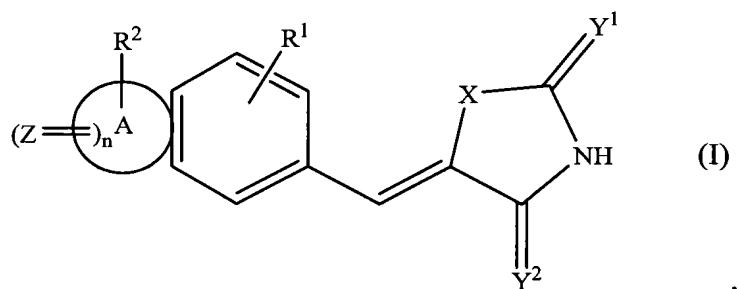
wherein R¹, R², Y¹, Z and n are as above defined in formula (II).

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): A method of preparing a thiazolidinone-vinyl fused-benzene of formula (III), according to claim 23, comprising the following step:



wherein R¹, R² are as above defined for formula (III), and
Y¹ is O, S or NH.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): A composition, comprising, a compound according to formula (I):



as well as its geometrical isomers, its optically active forms as enantiomers, diastereomers and its racemate forms, as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts and pharmaceutically active derivatives thereof, wherein

A is a 5-8 membered heterocyclic or carbocyclic group, wherein said carbocyclic group may be fused with aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl;

X is S or O;

Y¹ and Y² are independently S or O;

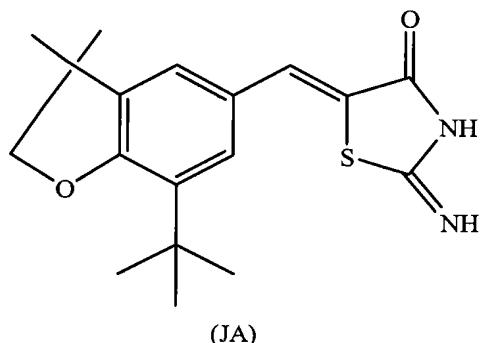
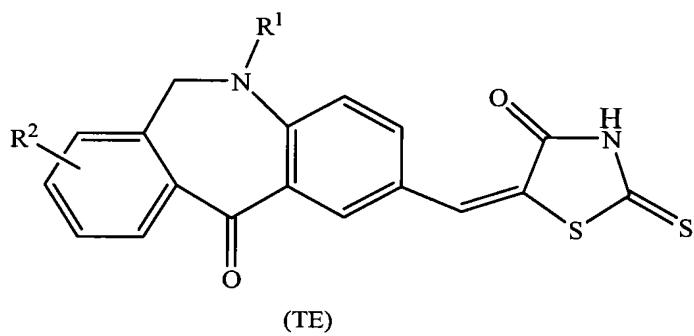
Z is S or O;

R¹ is H, CN, carboxy, acyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, halogen, hydroxy, acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl carboxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy, alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxycarbonyl, aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aminocarbonyl, acylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl acylamino, ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl ureido, amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl amino, ammonium, sulfonyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyloxy, sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyl, sulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfinyl, sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, sulfonlamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonlamino or carbamate;

R² is selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, acyl, amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl carboxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxycarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aminocarbonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl acyloxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl acylamino, C₁-C₆-alkyl ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl amino, C₁-C₆-alkyl alkoxy, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfanyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfinyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl sulfonlaminoaryl, aryl, C₃-C₈-cycloalkyl or heterocycloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkyl aryl, C₂-C₆-alkenyl-aryl, C₂-C₆-alkynyl aryl, carboxy, cyano, hydroxy, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, nitro, acylamino, ureido, C₁-C₆-alkyl carbamate, sulfonlamino, sulfanyl, or sulfonyl;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

with the proviso that the following compounds are excluded:



wherein R¹ is a lower alkyl or aralkyl and R² is H or a halogen.